

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 DLOS-09 ACDE-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
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L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-07 EB-07
COME-00 INT-05 /117 W
-----044512 221754Z /42

P 221600Z JUN 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2215
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 329

GENEVA FOR SEABED DEL - SLOSS

FROM MBFR REPRESENTATIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM NATO
SUBJECT: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES OF JUNE 21,
1977

MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS OF JUNE 21, 1977

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE JUNE 21, 1977 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE
VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE BELGIAN REP, FRG
REP AND US REP AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS TARASOV AND SHUSTOV,
CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER AND POLISH REP DABROWA. MILITARY ADVISORS
ALSO PARTICIPATED.

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2. EASTERN REPS PRESENTED A COMMENTARY ON ASSOCIATED MEASURES,
STATING IT WAS PREMATURE TO DISCUSS THIS TOPIC NOW SINCE THE
CHARACTER OF THESE MEASURES SHOULD DEPEND ON THE NATURE OF THE RE-
DUCTION AGREEMENT. THEREFORE, FRUITFUL DISCUSSION COULD NOT BEGIN
UNTIL THERE WAS AGREEMENT ON THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF REDUCTIONS.
EASTERN REPS CRITICIZED WESTERN PROPOSALS ON STABILIZING MEASURES

FOR NOT APPLYING TO ALL PARTICIPANTS, BUT ONLY TO THE US AND USSR, AND FOR OMITTING COVERAGE OF AIR FORCES. EASTERN REPS SAID WHOLE COURSE OF DATA DISCUSSION INDICATED THAT WESTERN DATA WAS NOT BASED ON FIRM INFORMATION BUT ON ESTIMATES. THE WEST HAD NOT BEEN IN A POSITION TO SUBSTANTIATE ITS CLAIMS OF A DISPARITY. THE WEST'S FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO TABLE NATIONAL TOTALS WAS HINDERING THE DATA DISCUSSION. EASTERN REPS REQUESTED MORE CLARIFICATION ON ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE PERSONNEL THE WEST HAD EXCLUDED FROM ITS DATA ON WARSAW PACT FORCES AND ANSWERED SOME WESTERN QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTERN DATA.

3. WESTERN REPS ANALYZED MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EASTERN REDUCTION PROPOSALS WHEN APPLIED TO WESTERN FORCES, DEMONSTRATING THAT THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH WOULD DIMINISH THE SECURITY OF WESTERN PARTICIPANTS, AND REFUTED SOME INCORRECT STATEMENTS MADE BY GDR REP ON ARMAMENTS IN JUNE 14 SESSION. THEY CRITICIZED EASTERN POSITION WITH REGARD TO STAGE 1 COMMITMENTS BY WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN THE US AS BEING IN PRACTICE INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE COMMITMENTS THE EAST FORESAW FOR THE US AND THE USSR IN THE FIRST STAGE. THEY ANSWERED QUESTIONS RAISED BY EAST IN THE JUNE 14 SESSION AND ASKED TWO FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTERN DATA.

4. FRG REP SAID THAT THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REDUCTION PROPOSALS OF THE TWO SIDES SHOULD BE EVALUATED IN TERMS OF THE TOTAL BURDEN OF REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OBLIGATIONS EACH SIDE WOULD UNDERTAKE. THESE BURDENS MUST BE ASSESSED IN THE LIGHT OF
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ALL RELEVANT FACTORS, INCLUDING GEOGRAPHY. APPLYING THIS COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS TO THE EASTERN PROPOSALS, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE BURDEN

IT WOULD IMPOSE ON THE WEST WOULD BE FAR GREATER THAN THAT ON THE EAST. RESPONDING TO GDR REP'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 14, FRG REP SAID THAT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL MAIN BATTLE TANKS IN THE REDUCTION AREA, THE EAST HAD MORE THAN TWICE AS MANY AS THE WEST. THE EAST ALSO HAD NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IN MOST OTHER TYPES OF MAJOR ARMAMENTS IN THE AREA.

5. CZECHOSLOVAK REP SAID EAST WAS NOT OPPOSED TO DEALING WITH ASSOCIATED MEASURES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN AGREEMENT. BUT ASSOCIATED MEASURES WERE SECONDARY IN IMPORTANCE TO REDUCTIONS AND THEIR SUBSTANCE WAS DEPENDENT ON THE NATURE OF THE REDUCTION AGREEMENT. AT THE PRESENT TIME, WHEN PARTICIPANTS DID NOT HAVE A CLEAR IDEA

OF THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE REDUCTION AGREEMENT, ATTEMPTS TO WORK OUT

ASSOCIATED MEASURES WERE OBVIOUSLY PREMATURE. TO DEAL AT THIS TIME WITH ASSOCIATED MEASURES WOULD DETRACT FROM THE EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS AND COULD CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WERE UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS. ALL

THE STABILIZING MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE WEST WERE DIRECTLY

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 329

GENEVA FOR SEABED DEL - SLOSS

FROM MBFR REPRESENTATIVE

LINKED TO THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH AND REFLECTED THAT APPROACH.
PROPOSED WESTERN MEASURES COVERED ONLY THE US AND USSR AND IN NO
WAY AFFECTED OTHER WESTERN FORCES IN THE AREA ALTHOUGH THEY PROVID-
ED THE MAIN PART OF NATO'S MANPOWER. IT WOULD BE MORE LOGICAL TO
APPLY THESE MEASURES TO ALL PARTICIPANTS FROM THE OUTSET. AS WITH
REDUCTIONS, ASSOCIATED MEASURES MUST BE BASED ON MUTUALITY. THIS
WAS ALL THE MORE SO SINCE THEY WOULD PLACE CONSTRAINTS ON THE NORMAL
DAILY ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET FORCES. THE WESTERN PROPOSALS DEALT
ONLY WITH GROUND FORCES, ALTHOUGH AIR FORCES WERE INVOLVED WITH
ALL CONTEMPORARY EXERCISES. THE EAST DID NOT AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD
BE EXCEPTIONS FROM AGREED CEILINGS TO PERMIT ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL
TO ENTER THE AREA FOR EXERCISES AND ROTATION. ONCE AGREED MAN-

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POWER CEILINGS ENTERED INTO EFFECT FOLLOWING REDUCTIONS, PARTICIPANTS SHOULD ADHERE TO THEM STRICTLY.

6. BELGIAN REP SAID IT WAS NOT CLEAR FROM EASTERN STATEMENTS IN WHAT PRACTICAL WAY DEFINITE OBLIGATIONS TO BE ASSUMED BY THE US AND USSR IN THE FIRST AGREEMENT WOULD DIFFER FROM THE OBLIGATIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE REMAINING DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THAT AGREEMENT. UNDER THE EASTERN APPROACH THE FIRST STAGE AGREEMENT WOULD CONTAIN A FULL RANGE OF COMMITMENTS BY THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN THE US AMAFVVZCZ

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